

Torrance, California
August 8, 1944

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, August 8, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilman Cucci.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Mayor Tolson declared a five minute recess to await the arrival of Councilman Cucci.

Mayor Tolson informed the Council that Councilman Cucci would be delayed and the meeting reconvened at 7:50.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held July 25, 1944 and of a Special Meeting held August 1, 1944 be approved. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

The Law Offices of Richard A. Haley filed a claim and demand against the City of Torrance in the sum of \$248.69 for an injury sustained by claimant Rosalind Silva of 10715 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, and for damages to her automobile incurred August 2, 1944 while driving westerly on 190th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the responsibility of this claim be denied and that the matter be referred to the City Attorney and the Insurance Carriers. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. George O. Thatcher, Committee Chairman, Walteria Girl Scouts and Cubmaster, Walteria Cubs, expressing appreciation for the courtesies and consideration extended them while encamped in the Torrance Park, and commending the Manager of the Bus Department and its operators for their efficient service.

A communication was read from the Torrance Annual Rodeo Committee stating that as the rodeo to be held August 19 and 20, will attract hundreds of cowboys who must stay in Torrance over night for the Sunday performance, and because of the lack of housing facilities, the Committee requested permission to use the Auditorium for a dance Saturday night to commence at 11:00 P.M., after the close of the rodeo, and to last until four o'clock Sunday morning.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of the Torrance Annual Rodeo Committee for permission to use the Civic Auditorium for holding a dance Saturday night, August 19, to last until four o'clock Sunday morning, be granted.

Mayor Tolson believed there would be no objection to dancing on Sunday for this one time, providing the dance was conducted in and orderly manner. Councilman Powell did not approve this action, saying there was a City Ordinance prohibiting Sunday dancing.

Mayor Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

A communication was read from the First Christian Church, signed by eight of its members, requesting that something be done to provide clean entertainment for the youth of this community, which would help retard juvenile delinquency, and proposing a roller skating rink and swimming pool.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication from the members of the First Christian Church be referred to the Recreation Commission for recommendation. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Metropolitan Water District advising that the City of Torrance on or before the 25th day of August,

1944, may elect to pay out of its municipal funds all or any portion of the amount of the Metropolitan Water District tax, which would otherwise be levied upon property within the city for the fiscal year 1944-45.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Metropolitan Water District be notified that the City of Torrance does not wish to pay out of its municipal funds all or any portion of the amount of the Metropolitan Water District tax, for the fiscal year 1944-45. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci arrived at 8:10 P.M.

A communication was read from the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference calling attention to its 22nd annual code maintenance meeting, scheduled to be held at Hotel Fresno, Fresno, California, October 3, 4 and 5, 1944.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that City Engineer Glenn M. Jain be authorized to attend the meeting of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference with expenses paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Bert S. Crossland Post #170 of the American Legion requesting permission to take charge of The Canteen at The Torrance Municipal Park for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1944 and ending June 30, 1945, and agreeing to turn the canteen over to the Rodeo Committee for its two-day performance August 19 and 20.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 of the American Legion be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from S. V. Cortelyou, District Engineer, Division of Highways, addressed to Chief of Police Stroh in answer to the request from the City for the installation of stop signs at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Highway 101. They replied that in 1940 a traffic investigation had been made at this intersection and that their department would approve a request from the City for a permit to install actuated signals at this location, but that no request for a permit had been received.

Engineer Jain outlined the procedure to follow to obtain the desired signals and mentioned that there were two types of signals, the ordinary four-way automatic signal, the pre-war estimate being \$2500.00, and the fully automatic traffic-actuated signal, the pre-war estimate being \$6500.00, the latter being the kind of signal recommended by the Division of Highways for this intersection.

After some discussion on the subject, Councilman Cucci moved that the City apply to the State for the necessary permit to install signals at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Highway 101. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Miss June Whitt tendering her resignation from the office of the City Clerk, effective August 19, 1944.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the resignation be accepted with regret. Mayor Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles F. Koors, Transportation Engineer, requesting authority to improve the Los Angeles Bus Depot, as outlined in his letter, the cost not to exceed \$500.00.

Councilman Cucci asked if the Los Angeles Depot, located at 1014 South Hill Street, is to be a permanent location. Mr. Koors informed the Council that this depot would be used for several years, but if it should be moved to another location, the fixtures would be installed in such a manner that they could be easily removed. Further discussion followed.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$500.00 be authorized for improving the Los Angeles Bus Depot as outlined in

Mr. Koors' communication. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

City Attorney McCall suggested that before the improvements are made, that the City request the owners of the building at 1014 South Hill Street to sign an agreement permitting the City to move the installations when it so desires. Mayor Tolson requested Mr. Koors and Mr. Ward to discuss this matter further with Attorney McCall.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles F. Koors, Transportation Engineer, requesting authorization to purchase additional shop equipment as submitted in the 1944-45 budget for the City Garage in the amount of \$1,850.00. Mr. Koors stated that the best opportunities for obtaining this equipment at the present time are at auction sales, and if given this authorization now will be able to take advantage of these sales as they take place.

Councilman Hitchcock informed Mr. Koors that the city's 1944-45 budget had not yet been set. A short discussion followed.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be held over until the budget is completed. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A bill was submitted by the Pacific Electric Railway Company for costs incurred by them in rehabilitating track across Abalone Avenue, relocating 4 poles and removing 2 poles and one box culvert, rearranging necessary overhead facilities and installing two crossing signs, account granting City of Torrance easement, "at no cost", for crossing at Abalone Street and Plaza del Amo, in amount of \$1538.45.

Engineer Jain explained that this amount was slightly in excess of what had been previously estimated.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bill of the Pacific Electric Railway Company in amount of \$1538.45 for rehabilitating track across Abalone Avenue be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A resolution of Condolence was read extending to Mrs. Inez C. Gascoigne the sympathies of the Council in the loss of her husband, Mr. William Gascoigne, Street Superintendent. The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of this resolution to Mrs. Gascoigne.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1680

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE RESCINDING RESOLUTION
NO. 1589 AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON
GASOLINE RATIONING BANK CERTIFICATES
FOR CITY OWNED CARS.

In reply to Councilman Cucci's inquiry as to the reason for this resolution, Clerk Bartlett explained that Glenn M. Jain, former Purchasing Agent, and Walter C. Bradford had previously signed the gasoline rationing checks, but as the Purchasing Agency had been transferred to the City Clerk it was necessary to write a new resolution authorizing him to sign gasoline rationing checks.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1680 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1681

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE URGING ALL MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 64 NOT IMMEDIATELY SUBJECT TO FEDERAL SERVICE TO ENLIST IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE GUARD.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1681 be adopted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1682

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO AUTHORIZE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$22,000.00 FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TORRANCE BOULEVARD, FROM BORDER AVENUE TO MADRID AVENUE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1682 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1683

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1683 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 357

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CATALINA AVENUE (HOLLYWOOD-PALOS VERDES PARKWAY) IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AS A PART OF THE COUNTY SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS.

Councilman Cucci moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 357 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 357 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Chief of Police John H. Stroh requesting permission to hire the necessary men to work during the

forthcoming Rodeo to be held August 19 and 20, 1944.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Chief of Police Stroh to employ the necessary help to handle the Rodeo crowd be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Fire Chief John E. McMaster requesting permission to take his vacation from August 19 to September 2, 1944, inclusive, and recommending that Captain J. R. Winters be appointed Acting Chief of the Fire Department during this period.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Chief John E. McMaster to take his vacation during the above specified dates, and that his recommendation to have Captain J. R. Winters appointed Acting Chief in his absence, be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$366.02 be authorized for the purchase of 24 - 5/8" x 3/4" Meters, straight reading CU.FT. without couplings, \$272.16; and miscellaneous small tools, \$93.86, for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$100.00 be authorized to cover expenses of O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician, while attending the Convention of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors at Santa Cruz on August 28, 29, and 30, 1944. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

In reply to Councilman Cucci's inquiry concerning the Santa Fe Franchise, Attorney McCall replied that after discussing the matter with the attorney for the Santa Fe, he believed that if the Council would grant them an extension of their franchise, that at the end of the war, or six months thereafter, the City and the Santa Fe Railway Company could get together and make whatever changes were necessary to the satisfaction of everybody.

Councilman Cucci asked the City Attorney if the matter were tabled for the duration, would it later affect the legality of the Santa Fe transporting anything over the line and could they operate without a franchise. Attorney McCall replied that the Santa Fe could continue to operate until such time as the Council gave them another franchise or stops them from operating.

Mayor Tolson asked how long could the Santa Fe continue to operate without a franchise before it is outlawed. Attorney McCall informed him that the city has no legal right to set any time limit and added that the statute of limitations does not apply in this case, and that if the city allows the Santa Fe to operate without a franchise it could not claim priority rights to operate.

At this point Mr. O'Toole, in the audience, wished to address the Council on the Santa Fe Franchise. Mayor Tolson asked him to wait until the Council had concluded its business, at which time he would be pleased to hear from him.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the employment of Roy Thompson as a laborer in the Street Department, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective August 8, 1944, be authorized. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1684

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT TO DO ALL NECESSARY TRAFFIC STRIPING AS DIRECTED.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1684 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the vacation salary of William Gascoigne, Street Superintendent, deceased, be paid to his widow. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the employment of Olan Ingram as Park Maintenance Man, on a temporary basis, to replace Leslie Jones transferred to the Street Department, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective August 2, 1944, be authorized. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that the salary of Henry Tyler, Bus Operator, be increased to \$185.00 per month, effective July 26, 1944, Mr. Tyler having completed six months' service with the City. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson moved that the employment of Irene Dumont, as Clerk and PBX Operator in the City Clerk's Office, on a temporary basis, to replace June Whitt resigned, at a salary of \$135.00 per month, effective August 7, 1944, be authorized. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Tolson introduced the recommendation of the Civil Service Board that vacation pay for employees, who work in lieu of taking vacation, be computed on average annual earnings. Councilman Cucci said that if the City Employees Local Union was agreeable to this recommendation, the Council would accept the recommendation, and Councilman Powell added that the employees will be notified of the action of the Council.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Renee Bartlett addressed the Council stating that the Santa Fe Franchise was to have been rewritten and passed at this time and asked the reason for it being tabled. Councilman Cucci denied that it was being tabled.

Mr. O'Toole informed the Council that it was not the desire of the petitioners to interfere with the operations of the Santa Fe Railway during the war emergency but that the franchise should not be renewed, and requested a vote of confidence from the Council that they would not sign a new franchise or agreement with the Santa Fe.

Mr. Hughes informed the Council that they had no objection to the Santa Fe Railway using the streets of Torrance for the duration, but no longer, and that it was up to the Council to decide when that emergency is over. However, it was their desire that the Council deny the renewal of the franchise. Mr. Elder stated that the petitions plainly state their attitude in the matter.

Mr. Cecil Smith, Manager of Thrifty Homes, Inc., asked if the Bus Lines could not be extended out to the Vista Highland area, being that section between Greenwood and Hickory Streets on Sonoma Street.

Mayor Tolson replied that he would speak to Mr. Koors and Mr. Ward on the matter and try to have a report for Mr. Smith at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Edmund A. Day called attention to the heavy traffic at Double Street and Cabrillo Avenue and requested that the Chief of Police have some of his officers at this point during the heavy rush hours.

Mr. O'Toole reminded the Council that they had not yet acted on his request for a vote of confidence agreeing not to enter into an agreement or renew the franchise with the Santa Fe Railway.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company for a renewal of their Franchise No. 57 be denied and that the matter be tabled for the duration of the war. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Reverend Wheeler stated that he saw no objection to dancing on Sunday, provided the dance was conducted in an orderly manner.

Mr. Sherfey asked if a communication could not be addressed to the Santa Fe Railway requesting them to break the trains at three important intersections.


Councilman Hitchcock moved that a letter be written to the Engineer of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company at San Bernardino, requesting that the trains be broken at three important intersections. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:25 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the meeting adjourned to Friday, August 11, 1944, at 6:30 P.M.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE